

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 05007 010633Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 STRE-00 L-03 /074 W
-----029578 011152Z /50

R 010631Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8374
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

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BRUSSELS FOR USEC; GENEVA FOR USMTN

DEPARTMENT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO STR FOR MATHIESON AND
MURPHY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EPAP, GATT
SUBJECT: RULES OF ORIGIN

1. USTEXDEL HAD OCCASION TO RAISE RULES OF ORIGIN TWICE
WITH ECTEXDEL WHILE IN TOKYO. FIRST DISCUSSION WAS DURING
TRILATERAL MEETING JULY 28TH. GOJTEXDEL DID NOT APPEAR
OVERLY CONCERNED WITH EC RULES, APPARENTLY BELIEVING THAT
LITTLE OF JAPAN'S TEXTILE TRADE WAS AFFECTED.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT BILATERAL MEETING THAT EVENING WITH EC,
USTEXDEL DISCUSSED RULES OF ORIGIN MATTER IN GREATER
DETAIL. EC (TRAN) INITIALLY INDICATED THAT SOMETHING
COULD BE WORKED OUT ON DENIM, BUT USTEXDEL COUNTERED BY
SAYING RULES OF ORIGIN AFFECTED FAR MORE THAN DENIM, AND
USG SOUGHT OVERALL SOLUTION.

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3. USTEXDEL REVIEWED HOW RULES OF ORIGIN AFFECTED U.S.
TRADE WITH BOTH EC AND EFTA, STATED THAT ON PRESENT
KNOWLEDGE MOST U.S. TRADE INVOLVED WAS THROUGH EC TO EFTA
AND NOT VICE VERSA, AND THAT PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT
RIGID EC APPLICATION OF RULES WAS HAVING DEVASTATING IMPACT
ON U.S. EXPORTS OF TEXTILES TO EC FOR PROCESSING AND
ONWARD EXPORT TO EFTA. USTEXDEL ALSO INFORMED TRAN OF

SURVEY ON ACTUAL IMPACT BEING UNDERTAKEN BY U.S. INDUSTRY, AT OUR REQUEST, AND THAT WE HOPED SUCH DATA WOULD BE AVAILABLE BY TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 5 BILATERAL PANEL MEETING. USTEXDEL REITERATED THAT RULES OF ORIGIN RE TEXTILES WERE OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO USG AND THAT SOME SOLUTION HAD TO BE FOUND.

4. TRAN AND NIZERY APPEARED MORE SYMPATHETIC TO U.S. POSITION THAN HERETOFORE. THIS MAY BE BECAUSE OF US/EC UNDERSTANDING DURING JULY MTN SESSION. BOTH WERE AWARE OF SEPTEMBER 5 PANEL MEETING, AND TRAN ASSUMED THAT KNUDSEN, NIZERY, AND HE WOULD BE INVOLVED. NIZERY STATED THAT A VALUE-ADDED SYSTEM WOULD NOT WORK IN TEXTILES (WITH WHICH USTEXDEL SOMEWHAT AGREES). NIZERY ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT THE TWO BTN PASS-THROUGH REQUIREMENT FOR TEXTILES WAS DIFFICULT. HE DID NOT INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT REPEAL OR AMENDMENT OF THE TWO-BTN SYSTEM WAS IN THE CARDS. BOTH TRAN AND NIZERY STATED THEY LOOKED FORWARD TO THE PANEL STUDY, INCLUDING ANY SPECIFIC DATA WE CAN PRESENT, AGAIN PROBABLY REFLECTING THE US/EC UNDERSTANDING AND, HOPEFULLY, INSTRUCTIONS THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM ON HIGH TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE WITH US ON THIS SCORE. IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM THESE CONVERSATIONS THAT EC TEXTILE OFFICIALS NOW REALIZE WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THE RULES OF ORIGIN ISSUE. UNGER

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